# News release

## Schools competition blasts off!

8 November 2004

In June 2005, EUMETSAT will be launching Europe's latest weather satellite, Meteosat-9. To celebrate this occasion, and raise awareness of the many beneficial uses of weather satellite data, EUMETSAT has organised a pan-European schools competition, which aims to identify Europe's most talented and diligent "Young Satellite Meteorologists."

**Great prizes for students and schools**
The overall European winners of the competition will be offered a chance to attend the satellite launch celebrations at EUMETSAT's "Mission HQ" in Darmstadt, plus a range of additional prizes, including MP3 players, DVD players and Discmans.

As well as prizes for the overall European winners, there will also be a range of national prizes, both for students and their schools.

As a partner of EUMETSAT, the Met Office is pleased to offer a trip to the BBC Weather Centre and a tour of the BBC Television Centre in London as a prize for the UK winners.

Other prizes include:

- A class trip to the National Space Centre, Leicester
- A class trip to the Science & Industry Museum, Manchester
- A box weather station (for use by school)
- 4 memberships to the London Science Museum's IMAX cinema.

**A free educational aid**
The competition is open to 15 and 16 year old students across Europe via a specially developed, multi-language web site. Due to go live on 8 November and running until 31 March 2005, the web site is a mine of information on satellite meteorology, a topic which relates to a range of subjects in the curriculum, particularly geography and science.

**How it works**
The competition questions, which are the same in every country, are mostly multiple-choice, and require students to carry out their own internet research using specified, weather-related web sites to uncover the answers, based on the following subject areas:

- General information about the Meteosat/MSG programme
- Applications and uses of weather satellites
- Interpretation of satellite images

Students may enter in teams of two, three or four, and each entry must be submitted on behalf of the students by a teacher from their school. Schools and teachers may enter any number of teams. All entries must be submitted by 31 March 2005, when judging will commence. National winners will then be notified, and of these, the best two teams will be invited to Darmstadt.

To find out more about the competition, visit the web site when it goes live on 8 November, or contact the competition organisers.

**For further information:**
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